



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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422 FUGITIVES ARRESTED DURING SIX MONTH PERIOD BY ICE'S FUGITIVE OPERATIONS UNIT IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers assigned to Atlanta's Fugitive Operation Unit have arrested 422 fugitives since Jan. 2005.

The fugitive aliens had been previously ordered removed by federal immigration judges, but had absconded rather than abiding by their lawful orders of removal and by the conditions of their release from custody. Of the total number apprehended, 180 aliens had separate convictions for criminal activity while in the United States. The number of criminal fugitives apprehended represents a 34 percent increase over the same period in 2004.

"These illegal aliens were ordered removed from the United States, but failed to appear at the conclusion of their proceedings," said John A. Mata, ICE field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. "They were offered the benefit of due process, but then failed to abide by the law, instead attempting to hide from the United States government."

The Atlanta Field Office has jurisdiction over Georgia, South and North Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Fugitive Operations initiative is part of a 10-year national plan focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 fugitive criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are hiding in the United States.

ICE's Atlanta office is home to one of 18 absconder teams nationwide tasked with locating and apprehending aliens who attempt to hide in the United States despite the lawful orders of immigration judges who have ordered the aliens to leave the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.